



SELMA UNIVERSITY, SELMA, ALA. FOUNDED 1878

Owned by colored Baptists of Alabama, representing 1,600 churches and 185,000 members. Rev. R. T. Pollard, D.D., president since 1902. Enrollment, 762 students, and 19 teachers, in 1908. Theological students, 74. Value of property, \$40,000.

Negro Baptists Carry the Burdens

Every effort is being made from time to time to improve the property of the institution, the last work being the installment of electric lights in all the buildings and putting in water works, including sewerage. It requires about \$25,000 annually for all purposes of the institution; and the school being owned and controlled by the Negro Baptists of Alabama, the burden of supporting it falls almost wholly upon them. In 1907 the American Baptist Home Mission Society of New York, contributed \$1,100; the Home Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, Atlanta, Ga., Women's Home Mission Society of Chicago, \$680; and the State Board of Missions of Alabama (white), \$200. The General Education Board of New York made the institution a conditional gift, the conditions being promptly met by the institution. The school has four buildings on thirty acres of land. Dr. Howard B. Grose, editorial secretary, says of these schools, aided by the society: "Considering the limitations and difficulties under which the work has been done, I do not believe any other undertaking can surpass in results the educational work of the American Baptist Home Mission Society for the colored people of the South."

Christian Activity at Selma

At the Clifton Conference, August 19, 1908, President Pollard, speaking of the activity at Selma, said: "We are doing the same thing as has been stated by the majority of the schools here, except to say we have no Sunday-school organization to carry on this kind of work on the school campus. Our students attend the churches in the city. We have preaching services which they attend, but we have nothing in the school which is compulsory. In other studies we mark them as any other school would."

While we do not teach the Sunday-school lesson, we have about forty girls who teach in Sunday-schools and in the schools near the city. They report at a Christian Workers' meeting. One society sends missionaries to the native Africans. We have sent one or more a year to do work among our own people. The institution is located in the heart of Alabama's 'black belt'; is Christian in tone, and aims to develop head, heart, and hand."

At the opening of the year's term, October 5, 1908, several Selma pastors discussed important subjects, among them: "The studious young man and his progress in the world"; "Faithfulness to church duties"; "The danger of a student tampering with his health"; and "The new student without much money, — what must he do?"

The Institution's Greatest Needs

The greatest needs of the Selma University are:

1. More dormitory accommodation. More than half of the four hundred non-resident students who come to the institution yearly board in private homes in the city because they cannot be accommodated in the dormitories of the institution. Plans are already on the way to erect an industrial building, the last story of which will be used for dormitory purposes. About fifteen hundred dollars have already been raised on this edifice, which will cost about ten thousand dollars.
2. A laundry outfit. The girls who do their own laundry work are placed at great disadvantage, because of lack of laundry facilities.
3. A good library. Books are the students' best friends. A good book or several of them would be greatly appreciated.